

dred and forty-nine cattle, three hundred and ninety hogs, and three sheep. A letter to the President shows the condition of his property: "I find, on a more minute examination of my lands than the short visits heretofore made to them permitted, that a ten years' abandonment of them to the ravages of overseers has brought on them a degree * degradation far beyond what I had expected. As this obliges me to adopt a milder course of cropping, so-1 find that they have enabled me to do it by having opened a great deal of land during my absence. I have, therefore, determined on a division of my farms into six fields, to be put in this rotation: first year, wheat; second, corn, potatoes, peas; third, rye or wheat, according to circumstances; fourth and fifth, clover when the field will bring it; and buckwheat dressings when they will not; sixth, folding and buckwheat dressings. But it will take me from three to six years to get this plan under way. I am not yet satisfied that my acquisition of overseers has been a happy one, or that much will be done this year toward,*? rescuing my plantations from their wretched condition. Time, patience and perseverance must be the remedy; and the maxim of your letter, 'Slow and sure/ is not less a good one in agriculture than in politics."

Success attended Jefferson's efforts to reduce to system the affairs of his estate. A picture of the prosperity of Monticello and a pleasing sketch of its owner was drawn by Rochefoucauld* Liancourt, who visited Jefferson in 1796: "At present he is employed with activity and perseverance in the management of his farms and buildings; and he orders, directs, and pursues in the minutest detail every branch of business relative to them. I found him in the midst of harvest, from which the scorching¹ heat of the sun does not prevent his attendance. It is negroes are nourished, clothed, and treated as well as white servants could be. As he did not expect any assistance from the two small neighboring towns, every article is made on his farm. His negroes are cabinet-makers, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, smiths, etc. The children he employs in a nail factory, which yields already a considerable profit. The young and old negroes spin for the clothing of the rest. He animates them